


APPROVED: Meeting No. 34-92

ATTEST: 

MAYOR AND COUNCIL
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND
Meeting No. 31-92

September 10, 1992

The Mayor and Council of Rockville, Maryland, convened in Worksession in the Council Chamber, Rockville City Hall, 111 Maryland Avenue, Rockville, Maryland, on September 10, 1992, at 7:30 p.m.

PRESENT

Mayor Douglas M. Duncan

Councilmember James F. Coyle

Councilmember Rose G. Krasnow

Councilmember James T. Marrinan (arr. at 7:40 p.m.)

ABSENT

Councilmember David Robbins

In attendance: City Manager Bruce Romer, Assistant City Attorney Sondra Block, Senior Civil Engineer Susan Straus, Civic Engineer Janette Fearon and Engineering Technician James Sherring.

Also In Attendance: Vincent H. Berg, Director, Sediment and Stormwater Administration, Maryland Department of the Environment.

Re: Worksession with
Stormwater Management
Task Force

Task Force Chairperson Ellen Watson and members Joshua Bloom, James Clarke, Kathleen Cove, William Hickman, James Impara, Arnold Kohn, James McDermott, William Meyer,

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Julia McBee, Dirk Schenck and Robert Slovic presented the final report of the Stormwater Management Task Force to the Mayor and Council. Task Force Members Stephen Elmendorf, Gary Gill and Frank Jerin were not present.

Ms. Watson highlighted points from the executive summary of the Report and read the 18 recommendations listed in that section. The presentation also highlighted the list of Stormwater Management (SWM) Program needs set forth in the Funding Section on page 15. These are the program aspects that the Task Force categorized as mandatory, very desirable or desirable for enactment/implementation. Ms. Watson indicated that some recommendations would be easier to implement, such as education and unifying the SWM Program under the Department of Public Works, SWM Division. These recommendations require action at this time while other recommendations, such as watershed plans and the proposed utility fee, would require further development by City staff to be followed by a public hearing.

Ms. Watson also indicated that the Task Force discussed at length two key issues: a new SWM facility in the Cabin John watershed and the SWM waiver process. The Task Force would support a new facility on the Tower Oaks property if an approved watershed plan recommended that site. The group was unable, however, to come to any consensus on changes to the waiver policy.

Ms. Watson stated that, with the presentation of this Report, the group has fulfilled the objectives for the Task Force set forth by the Mayor and Council.

Councilmember Coyle asked if an overview was available to indicate the costs associated with implementing the Report recommendations. Ms. Watson responded that specific dollar amounts had not been discussed, and the group had only considered very approximate costs related to starting or continuing various programs. Staff noted that more specific costs could be developed in the

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immediate future.

As a plan of action for the Stormwater Management Program, staff was requested by the Mayor and Council to analyze which recommendations could be implemented immediately, which could be realized relatively soon and which could be classified as long-term goals. This scheme should place considerable emphasis upon development of comprehensive watershed plans which the Task Force considered to be mandatory. Finally, it was requested that the program evaluation provide the Mayor and Council with information regarding costs of each of the proposed program modifications to both developers and taxpayers.

Councilmember Coyle inquired as to the 10/2 policy and what specific recommendations were made concerning this. Staff replied that the interim procedures that are now in place would continue to be used until the watershed studies were adopted.

As to the City's authority in the enforcement of maintenance regulations, Assistant City Attorney Sondra Block advised Councilmember Coyle that the City currently has this authority; however, the regulations could be made more specific.

The importance of centralized control of the program under the Stormwater Management Division of Public Works was emphasized by Task Force members in order to avoid duplication of services and personnel. It was noted that some maintenance has not been accomplished in a timely manner due, in part, to non-centralized control.

The goal of education was discussed, and Ms. Watson commented that the Task Force feels that the Science and Technology Commission, as a permanent group, would be capable of overseeing educational programs. The possibility of a SWM subcommittee of the Science and Technology Commission was raised.

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Councilmember Coyle requested that visual aids such as charts and pictures be developed and used for educating the public in matters such as on-site versus off-site SWM.

Mayor Duncan thanked the Task Force members for their excellent work and expressed the City's appreciation for the many hours devoted to accomplishing the Task Force objectives. Having completed its charge, the Task Force is disbanded.

Re: Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Mayor and Council, the meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m., to convene again in General Session at 7:30 p.m. on September 14, 1992, or at the call of the Mayor.